

Top Secret



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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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19 May 1972

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CHILE: Tense relations between the Communist Party and extreme leftist elements may be near the breaking point.

Communist leaders have told President Allende, [redacted] that the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) plans to set off a general upheaval this weekend, assassinating Allende and putting the blame on the rightist opposition. The MIR plan is said to call for simultaneous attempts to incite violence in southern Chile so severe that army troops would have to be sent there from Santiago, leaving the capital vulnerable to an uprising. The Communists claim they will leave the government if Allende does not take immediate action to control the MIR and extremists within his coalition who are determined to precipitate violence.

Infighting between the cautious Communists and the proponents of more revolutionary policies has risen sharply in recent weeks. Violent incidents and public recriminations have occurred almost daily during the past week. The Communists apparently have seized on, and possibly embroidered, the alleged MIR plot in order to impel Allende to crack down on the extremists, whom they see as their chief rivals for power.

The extremists have made it clear they are bent on precipitating a showdown with the advocates of compromise. In their view, only drastic measures will reverse the deterioration in the government's position and consolidate the power of the left.

Allende, well guarded and forewarned, will take every precaution to avoid civil disorders that would increase the pressures on him from extremists on both the right and the left. Army units in Santiago and southern Chile reportedly are on the alert. [redacted]

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ZAIRE: The coming national congress of Zaire's official political party, the Popular Movement of the Revolution (MPR), will formalize President Mobutu Sese Seko's complete control over the government.

25X1 [redacted] the congress will reaffirm the party's status as the country's "supreme institution." The congress is then expected to grant the party the power to enact laws without National Assembly ratification, and to give the party authority over the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of government. These powers automatically devolve to Mobutu as head of the party. The high point of the congress may be its declaration of Mobutu--elected to a seven-year term in 1970--as president for life. Rumors to that effect have been widespread in Kinshasa in recent weeks and have not been discouraged by government officials.

Although civilian support for the MPR's political supremacy seems assured, resentment within the army could become a major problem for Mobutu. In recent months some senior army officers have become uneasy over the party's intrusion into virtually all institutions in Zaire--the most recent being the Roman Catholic Church--and the officers believe the army may be next in line. [redacted]

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NOTES

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EGYPT-IRAQ: President Sadat will visit Baghdad soon, possibly as early as this weekend, [REDACTED] Both countries recently have been trying to improve relations, which for many years have been characterized by abusive propaganda and threats of subversion. Much of the impetus behind this move comes from the Soviet Union. Moscow is trying to foster closer relations between Egypt, Iraq, and Syria in order to counter the Confederation of Arab Republics, which never has received the USSR's endorsement. Similar attempts in the past to improve Egyptian-Iraqi relations generally have failed to achieve any lasting effect. Moreover, Sadat's new moves toward the Iraqis are bitterly opposed by his Arab confederation partner, Libyan Premier Qadhafi, who is generally hostile to Baathist regimes. [REDACTED]

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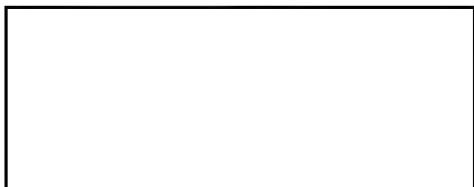
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